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Shared genetic background of inflammatory diseases of the bowel

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Shared Genetic Background of Inflammatory Diseases of the Bowel

1. Genetic risk factors alone will never be sufficient to predict ulcerative colitis risk and to differentiate between healthy people and ulcerative colitis patients. *(This thesis)*
2. There is a substantial overlap in genetic risk factors between Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and celiac disease. *(This thesis)*
3. Candidate-pathway genetic screens are an important way to increase the power of genetic studies in complex disease in order to identify risk loci for which genome-wide association studies are underpowered. *(This thesis)*
4. The *IL2/IL21* locus is an important risk locus for Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and celiac disease, but the actual risk variants and hereby probably also the mechanism through which this effect is exercised, is more similar between ulcerative colitis and celiac disease, than between these two diseases and Crohn's disease. *(This thesis)*
5. Genetic risk for many complex traits is heterogeneous between populations. *(This thesis)*
6. Hypothesis-free research is always underpowered to give comprehensive results; hence it will have to be followed by several stages of hypothesis-directed research.
7. The knowledge on genetic diversity gained with the Human Genome Project will be useless until we are able to interpret this diversity, which we can only do with extensive knowledge on the translational process from DNA through RNA to functional amino acids.
8. Overwhelmed with the enormous genetic diversity found by the Human Genome Project it is attractive to concentrate on genetic similarities. However it is important for the progression of the field to take on the challenge and to interpret the diversity.
9. Our ideas must be as broad as Nature if they are to interpret Nature. *(Sherlock Holmes, A Study in Scarlet, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)*
10. We find what we are looking for in life - if you look for happiness, you will see it: if you look for distrust and envy and hatred - you will find those too. *(Alexander McCall-Smith)*
11. Met je zorgen maken kom je niet verder, gewoon beginnen. *(Kineke Festen)*
12. Het is belangrijk om altijd te luisteren naar het advies van mensen die ouder en wijzer zijn, maar minstens zo belangrijk om te overwegen dingen totaal anders te doen.

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